

Historic, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

WARTIME EXTENSION

WLD BRAR
CURRENT SERIAL RECORDSUMMARY OF EXTENSION WORK, TECHNIQUES, AND RESULTS
BASED ON STATE REPORTS

JUN-5 1943

0

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Farm labor again holds center of stage in reports from State extension services, followed closely by Victory Gardens, home food preservation, and neighborhood leaders. One State reports 50 percent of herd improvement associations suspended for lack of testers. Another reports success of sheep-shearing schools.

0

DELAWARE

April 1, 1943

Farm labor.- Study of 1942 farm labor survey data by Extension Service indicates estimated 3,000 emergency seasonal farm laborers will be needed in Delaware during harvest season of 1943 to maintain farm labor force equivalent to that of 1940.

Some progress being made in getting release of men from armed forces if they are over 38 and have essential farm to return to.

Neighborhood leaders.- Break-down of several large neighborhood groups into smaller units and appointment of additional neighborhood leaders completed in March. Policies involving best use of system discussed by State leader committee. It was agreed that effort to set up extension neighborhood leaders in semiurban section of New Castle County was unsound because strictly rural problems are in minority, and other services are covered by OCD organization. Decided to concentrate on rural neighborhoods in future.

Victory Gardens.- Specialists held 5 garden conferences. Circular, Vegetable Garden For Victory, prepared and released, 4 radio talks given; and 12 Special Garden Page releases issued.

4-H Club members held 45 garden meetings during month.

Crop production.- Fertilizer grade recommendations for 1943-44 sent to Food Production Administration.

Specialists cooperating with cannery operators to get maximum production on acreage devoted to canning crops.

Assistance given post engineer of Army Air Base, at New Castle County Airport in planning production of grass cover to prevent erosion on airfield.

Summary No. 49
May 1, 1943

MINNESOTA
April 1, 1943

Farm labor.- Director Paul E. Miller serving as chief of coordinated farm help program under appointment by Governor Stassen; Federal and State agencies cooperating. Under plan county agents have taken lead in arranging for farm help committees for each county and each trade center within county. Extension working closely with USES in placement. Organization now set up and ready to work. Men neighborhood leaders to survey neighborhood help situation and get in touch with neighborhood placement center. Program calls for training of boys by vocational agriculture and placing them where needed--also job instructor training through county agents to help farmers in use of boys.

Victory Gardens.- Program in full swing as result of conferences of all interested groups called by Extension in each county. Extension plans and materials have outlet through all USDA agencies, OCD, vocational agriculture, rural schools, civic organizations.

Job instructor training.- Ten State staff members took J.I.T. course as planned by Training Within Industry Committee of War Manpower Commission. They revised industry handbook to suit Minnesota farm conditions. Handbook and training were passed on to all State and county staff members as basis for carrying instruction plan to farm groups.

Special State conference.- Special spring conference of all extension workers called for April 12-15. Main purpose to adapt two biggest jobs for spring and summer, farm help and food preservation, for local handling by neighborhood leaders. Plans made for series of training meetings to reach every neighborhood leader, to be followed by neighborhood meetings on farm help and food preservation called by men and women leaders.

Neighborhood leader work plan.- Leaders will be called on to play key role in farm help and food preservation. Men leaders to call together farmers in neighborhood, talk over "changework," survey custom rates and use, survey seasonal labor needs, and report these to placement center. Women leaders to call neighbors for inventory of gardens, introduce problems of preservation, inventory equipment and suggest cooperative use, invite neighborhoods to designate food preservation leader for further study.

Food preservation training.- State home demonstration staff planning extensive training in canning, drying, freezing, and storage, to follow immediately after women neighborhood leaders have organized neighborhoods. Revised literature ready.

4-H Clubs.- Victory enrollment going well, with substantial increases in most counties. Farm service and home service activities well under way.

Sheep-shearing schools.- Schools to insure enough shearers to take care of Minnesota flocks proved big success. Fifteen schools scheduled cooperatively by State Department of Education and Extension Service, county agents making local arrangements. Schools will reach more than 200 shearers. Instructors say at least half of these will make competent custom shearers.

OHIO

April 19, 1943

Agricultural engineering. - Machinery repair, labor-saving devices, and fire prevention emphasized in all possible ways. One specialist detailed to assist with State machinery rationing devised plan to help both manufacturers and farmers; plan now adopted by national rationing board.

Good idea: County used-farm-machinery consignment sale to put idle implements to work. First sale grossed \$1,500; second over \$6,000. Farmers immediately bought \$1,153 worth of stamps and bonds from receipts in first sale.

Agronomy. - Urging production of more crop units with fewer hours labor through better tillage, certified seeds, more extensive use of lime and fertilizer. Records show all-time high usage of both lime and fertilizer in State in 1942.

Animal husbandry. - Working on problem of adapting rations to available feeds. Preliminary work done to make labor available for sheep shearing by training inexperienced help and by scheduling time of custom shearers. Facing problem of keeping herd-improvement associations running; 50 percent suspended for lack of testers. Advocating use of pig brooders and sanitation to save spring pigs; also greater use of improved pastures to get production with less labor.

Plant disease and insect control. - Continuing radio service of timely spray information over two stations dialable by every Ohio fruit or vegetable grower. Spray formula adapted to meet present shortages of some materials. New printed information issued to meet changed conditions.

Beekeeping. - Thousands of inexperienced people trying to start beekeeping and experienced apiarists calling for more help.

Home economics. - Emphasizing methods of doing more with less in shorter time. Myriad of women insistent on learning new cookery methods, garment and furnishings conservation, food preservation, and better working methods. Meat-canning season suddenly switched from late fall to early spring; trying to avoid botulism epidemic.

Victory Gardens. - Anyone missed by Victory Garden campaign is blind deaf-mute. Seed and supply stores swamped by orders. Merchants unable to keep food jars in stock. Emphasizing protection of fruits and vegetables and utilization of all produced.

Poultry. - Several new bulletins and leaflets issued to adapt recommendations to present situations in feeding and housing. Course of instruction given in small-flock management. Hatcheries trying to keep up with orders booked for chicks.

Rural economics. - Held schools to train advisers to aid farmers with income-tax reports. Originated training of transplanted farm labor; plan now adopted in four other States.

Farm forestry.- Urging use of fuel wood to save transportation. Advising owners of timber on changing markets. One county agent saved a farmer \$500 on a single timber sale.

4-H Clubs.- 1943 National Mobilization Week too early for Ohio clubs, although mobilization plan originated here in 1942. Put on organization week April 3-9 high-lighted by Governor's proclamation and radio transcription distributed to 15 Ohio stations. Will be fortunate to hold enrollment at 1942 levels; older boys and girls carrying heavy home-work load.

SOUTH DAKOTA
April 1, 1943

Farm labor program.- County labor office established in every county in accord with State plan agreed upon by Extension Service, State USDA War Board, and USES. State extension staff member met with county war board and representatives of civic organizations, schools, county government, and other groups interested in farm labor. At each meeting county group established its own organization.

In counties with agents, county agent is farm labor representative, responsible for obtaining volunteer farm labor representatives in each town. In nonagent counties, a member of county war board was designated labor representative. War board agreed to supply clerical help.

State group decided not to establish additional county committees. County war board and representatives of other groups will act as advisory group to county labor representative.

Sheep-shearing schools.- Extension animal husbandman preparing to conduct 2-day sheep-shearing schools in counties of central part of State to train prospective shearers. Such training needed among owners of small bands. Professional shearers will take care of large bands, but will not have time for small bands. Enrollment in schools will be limited to 15 persons, who must agree to shear more than their own bands.

District extension conferences.- Two-day district conferences held during month for county and home agents for subject matter training in poultry management, livestock diseases, and making county schedules for next 3 months. One day devoted to farm labor program.

Publication program.- New extension circulars printed, 5 relate to increased food production in 1943. Subjects: soybean, flax, milk, and garden production, and planting shelterbelts.

Foods and nutrition.- Nutritionist attended 3 victory institutes to present work on dehydration of foods and assist homemakers in planning family food supply; held 3 additional training schools on family food supply. Home extension agents throughout State held home food supply training meetings to train leaders; emphasis placed on planting a garden.

New circular, "Canning for Victory," prepared for 4-H Club members.

Clothing and home management. - Thirteen training schools for project leaders in clothing care, "Mend and Save for Victory," held at various points by the clothing specialist.

Sixteen leader-training meetings for "Save and Serve" held in non-home-agent counties, by home-management specialist, for home-management project leaders and 4-H Club leaders. Meetings emphasized care and repair of equipment and furnishings to make them last longer, give extra service, and wear better. South Dakota Family Record Books discussed briefly with leaders at these meetings.

Plans made by home-management specialist in cooperation with extension farm labor committee for job training demonstrations at district conferences. At Brookings conference, washing a separator was demonstrated and at Rapid City the pressure cooker was explained.

